B.R.2018.03

CALLING UPON THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO EXPAND MEDICAL AMNESTY IN
ALCOHOL RELATED INCIDENTS

——

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: SGB President Max Kneis, SGB Judicial Chair Marina Sullivan, SGB Wellness Chair Maggie Kennedy
CO-SPONSORED BY: Board Members Ciara Barry, Ian Callahan, Ami Fall, Maddie Guido, Zuri Kent-Smith, Nihita Manem, Krishani Patel, Alex Spenceley; Collegiate Panhellenic Association President Ellie Foley; Interfraternity Council President Christian Baker; and National Pan-Hellenic Council President Brandon Bennett

27 FEBRUARY 2018
President Kneis introduced the following resolution; which was read for the first time.

13 MARCH 2018
Read the second time and voted on.

——

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL AMNESTY

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Student Government Board is to promote the concerns, interests, needs, and welfare of the student body of the University of Pittsburgh;

WHEREAS, each year approximately 1,825 college students in the United States die from alcohol related injuries¹;

WHEREAS, the University of Pittsburgh’s Medical Amnesty Protocol provides that neither the student(s) calling, nor the student(s) experiencing an alcohol or drug emergency will be charged with violating any University of Pittsburgh alcohol and drugs policy²;

WHEREAS, students are expected to seek immediate assistance for others if they are experiencing an alcohol emergency;

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania’s medical amnesty policy does not provide protection for the person receiving medical attention for alcohol related overdoses, while it does for a drug overdose; 

WHEREAS, neighboring states such as New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have extended medical amnesty laws to cover both the caller and person in need of assistance in the alcohol related incident; 

WHEREAS, after implementing a full medical amnesty policy, Cornell University saw an increase in on-campus calls to emergency services related to alcohol poisoning, a decrease in the percentage of calls requiring hospital emergency room visits, while drinking habits of students were found to have remained unchanged; 

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should enact laws to better the general welfare and protect the lives of high school and college students; 

WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board believes adding legal protection to the state criminal code for the person receiving medical attention in an incident involving alcohol will create a safer environment for college students across the commonwealth; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, on this 13th day of March in the year 2018, the Student Government Board calls on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to consider extending the medical amnesty law; and be it further RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; and be it finally RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall reflect the official position of the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board. 

ADOPTED: this 13th day of March 2018 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Max Kneis, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

[3] PA Code, Title 18 Chapter 63 Section 6308 (https://tinyurl.com/y8dhqxtq)
[5] Lewis & Marchell (https://tinyurl.com/yaee5b2v)